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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

December 12, 1952

Honorable Robert A. Lovett  
Secretary of Defense  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I have your letter of December 8, suggesting the desirability of legislation to strengthen the security laws as they may apply to columnists or newspapers that publish or cause to be published classified information.

You have been correctly informed that the Department of Justice has under consideration a proposal to amend section 793 of title 18, United States Code, so that it will cover those who willfully publish or cause to be published information relating to the national defense, which information there is reason to believe could be used to the injury of the United States or to the advantage of any foreign nation.

There has been drafted within the Department a bill to amend sections 793(e) and 794 of title 18, United States Code, relating to espionage. The first section of this measure deals with the problem which is the subject of your letter and I am enclosing for your consideration and comment a copy of the text of that section.

Your kind offer of assistance in securing the enactment of this legislation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

(Signed) James P. McGranery

Attorney General

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